

May 2017



## Annual General Membership Meeting

The time has come for this year's Annual General Membership Meeting! It's time for annual reports, elections, community, and the best potluck in town!

The health and success of our Co-op depends on a committed and knowledgeable Board of Directors. This year, there are three Board seats open, and four candidates running!

You must be a YFC member in good standing by April 30, 2017 to vote in this Co-op election. Member-owners are able to vote for our Board of Directors by mail, by dropping their ballots off at the store, or by attending the General Membership Meeting (GMM). In-store voting will begin April 20th, 2017 and will be available until May 4th, 2017 at 5pm. Information about each of the 4 candidates is posted in the store and on our website at: [ypsifoodcoop.org/content/co-op-happenings](http://ypsifoodcoop.org/content/co-op-happenings)

This year's meeting will take place on Thursday May 4, 2017 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. The meeting will include the annual report from the General Manager, Corinne

Sikorski, and the current Board President, Cheryl Weber, and some members of the staff.

The model of Policy Governance that has been adopted by the Board is hierarchical, paralleling the legal structure and fiduciary responsibility of the Co-op and its stakeholders. The member-owners are the base of our organization, and are at the top, with the Board of Directors they elect below them to act on their behalf, and then the General Manager, and the staff, who carry out the mission. In this system of governance, the most important values of the organization are written into policy, which then guides the GM in running the Co-op.

Your vote is important! By voting you are taking part in moving the Ypsilanti Food Co-op in its future direction that is best for everyone in our community!

We hope every member-owner will vote and encourage them to attend the Annual General Membership Meeting and lastly don't forget to bring a dish to pass to the best potluck in town!



If you are planning to vote in this year's Board of Directors Elections you must renew your YFC membership for the 2017 year by **Sunday April 30, 2017!**

Applications are available at the register! If you have any questions about your current member status ask at the register and the YFC staff will inform you of your current standing!

# Voting Information:

1. Please complete the ballots to vote for up to three (3) board members. If you lose this ballot, you can get a blank one at the store.
2. **Put your ballot in an envelope with your name on the front (to verify membership).** If an envelope is received without a member's name on it, that vote will not be counted. If you are not a member by 4/30/17 your vote will not be counted.
3. Place envelopes in the collection box in the store beginning 4/20/17 until 4:00pm on May 4, 2017, or bring your ballot to the General Membership Meeting at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on Thursday May 4, 2017 at 6:00pm.
4. Ballots will be accepted through the end of the General Membership Meeting on May 4, 2017. The end of the meeting is when the reports are done being given.
5. Board members will verify membership on each envelope, remove the ballots from the envelope, and count the votes after they're separated from the names at the end of voting so that the names are not connected with specific ballots.
6. Depending on the number of ballots, the results will be announced at the end of the event or in the store the next day.

## **BALLOT** **Board of Directors** **Election** **Vote for 3 positions**

- ☐ **Aaron Bedell**
- ☐ **Susan Carter**
- ☐ **Nancy Christensen**
- ☐ **Cheryl Weber**

## Annual General Membership Meeting

**Where:** The Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place, Ypsi 48198

**When:** Thursday May 4, 2017

**6:00pm** Gather & mingle!

**6:30pm** Updates on YFC's Annual Report, store updates by Corinne Sikorski, General Manager, and Cheryl Weber, Board President, followed by election of Board of Directors. Our 2016 Annual Report will be distributed, available in the store, and linked to our website: [www.ypsifoodcoop.org](http://www.ypsifoodcoop.org)

**7:15pm** Potluck Dinner - **Please bring a dish to pass.**



# Sustainability Series: Solar Power! - by Leaha Dotson

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**Why solar power?** The majority of the world is dependent upon fossil fuels for energy. Fossil fuels are unsustainable due to greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to damaging climate change; and air pollutants like sulfur dioxide. As more people and governments see the danger of fossil fuel dependency the demand for renewable energy sources is continuously increasing!

**Solar power stands out among other renewable sources because:** it does not require fossil fuels, has a limited impact on the environment, matches peak time output with peak time demand, solar panels are versatile, and are often installed on site allowing for flexible installment options, and many govern-

-ments have begun incentivizing the installment of solar panels. Solar power is also the cleanest and most readily available renewable energy resource!

**Why go solar?** The two most common motivations for 'going solar' are **improving the environment** and **cutting energy costs**. In addition, 'going solar' protects you against rising energy costs, increases your property value, contributes to country's energy independence, creates jobs, boosts the local economy, and actively contributes to a sustainable world!

**YFC and Solar power:** YFC takes sustainable power seriously! In 2005 we added solar panels to our roof and as of 2013 we have 60 panels!

YFC was the first solar installment in the Ypsilanti Historic District and the first commercial customer to have net — measuring. We produce excess energy which we provide to DTE to help them meet renewable goals! The YFC Bakery, due to our solar panels, runs with 100% renewable energy!

**Ypsi and Solar power:** The solar movement that started at YFC grew into a grass-roots movement called SolarYpsi! SolarYpsi is dedicated to the use of renewable energy sources.

**How can you start going solar?** If you want to learn more about 'going solar' or are interested in finding a local solar contractor in visit [solar.ypsi.com](http://solar.ypsi.com)

## Aura Cacia Body Care Demos

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Aura Cacia will be coming to YFC to host 'Make Your Own Body Care Demos'. The first demo will be Wednesday May 3rd at 11:30—6:00pm and the second demo will be Friday May 26th at 11:30— 6:00pm.

Aura Cacia is a member owned co-op that holds itself responsible to the people and the planet!

Aura Cacia essential oils are gathered from all over the globe! They aim to create direct relationships with the growers of these products in order to

support them, their families, and their communities.

**What are essential oils?** Essential oils are an aromatic, vaporous substance found all over the globe! Essential oils are extracted from specific parts of plants: the flower, leaf, resin, bark, root, branch, seed or fruit. These organic oils provide and promote beneficial response to the body when applied or inhaled.

**How to use essential oils?** There are four main uses: 1. Inhalation, 2. Diffu-

This in-store demonstration will feature the following essential oil combinations: Bergamot BF and Rosemary, Lavender and Geranium, and lastly Eucalyptus and Peppermint!

Learn more about using essential oils and their benefits! You won't want to miss out so save the date now!

If you are interested in learning more about Aura Cacia visit their webpage at:

<https://www.auracacia.com/>

## Call for volunteers for Education Series!

This year YFC plans to ramp up our educational events. We are looking for volunteers interested in hosting a demo or class sponsored through the YFC.

We would like events that are relatable to and in line with YFC's mission statement and the co-op principles!

The YFC is guided by seven co-op principles and principle number five is all

about 'Education, Training and Information.'

Our goal is to host at least one educational event per month for the 2017 year, with plans for increasing frequency. Through these events we look forward to providing an enriching experiencing. YFC is filled with many talented individuals with a

variety of different skills such as jewelry making, hoop house installments, nutrition specialists.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering and earning a discount by sharing your skills with other members of our community, please contact Leaha Dotson at [leaha@ypsifoodcoop.org](mailto:leaha@ypsifoodcoop.org)

# Customer Info Corner:



YFC aims to educate and engage our community; which includes the kids in our community! To better do this YFC has joined the Co+Op Explorers program that takes place in food co-ops all over the U.S.

The Co+Op Explorers program is a free fruit program that was created by the National Cooperative Grocers (NCG) to engage the young members of our community and increase access to healthy fruit snacks! YFC's free fruit snack is an apple!

Joining the Co+Op Explorers program is easy! To become a card carrying Co+Op explore — yes kids will receive their own

## Co-op Kids Info!

member card for YFC— kids simply need to bring a parent or supervising adult to the cashier and ask to become a Co+Op Explorer! Each child will then receive their own official Co+Op Explorers Passport and Co+Op Explorers member card!

Each visit to YFC Co+Op Explorer members will get to add a new sticker to their passport and receive one free apple!

When they reach 12 stickers, finishing their passport, they will receive a special prize bag! Kids are also able to start a new passport upon completion to work towards their next Co+Op Explorers Prize!



Also for Kids of the Co-op, YFC has reopened the renovated and improved YFC Kids Room, located in the incense and candle section.

We are happy to provide a safe area for our YFC kids to enjoy their visit while their parents get their grocery shopping done! We've provided educational books and a mini kitchenette for their enjoyment! The play kitchen is well stocked with multiple toy veggies and fruits to help kids learn about healthy eating!

Stay tuned to learn about special Co+Op Explorer Kids Events and Programs coming soon to YFC!

## We are changing up the YFC Newsletter!

To better serve our YFC shoppers and member-owners we are changing up our YFC newsletters!

We've begun this process by stepping up our digital presence through our e-newsletter the Ypsi Mix Weekly! This e-newsletter updates customers and member-owners about the weekly need-to-knows such as: sales, in-store promotions, tastings, recipe ideas, and more!

This e-newsletter also allows us to share info paperlessly to a wider audience!

We are also making another big change...we are moving from monthly Ypsi Mix Editions to bimonthly Ypsi Mixes, the YFC Newsletter. This newsletter will continue to focus on more in-depth articles.

The Ypsi Mix Weekly will help inform customers and member-owners of frequent

changes such as sales, tastings, and meeting times. To stay up to date make sure you've signed up to receive the Ypsi Mix Weekly! You can sign up either at the register or [follow this link on your browser](#)

We are excited for this new direction and will inform shoppers and member-owners as the changes go into effect!

Thank you for your continued support!



## Thoughts from the GM—2016 recap...YFC Future...YFC Expansions

Over the past year, we have continued to be your neighborhood grocery store. We have also continued to see our competition grow their organic and local grocery lines, as they attempt to look like us! What food co-ops started over 40 years ago in creating a better food system with healthier food for people and the planet has become mainstream. Every grocery store wants a piece of those natural food sales, including Wal-Mart, now the largest seller of organics. Recently, Fresh Thyme joined other local grocers such as Costco, Whole Foods, Trader Joes, and even Target to sell natural foods in our area.

To continue to be a better

store for our community we continue to improve our store. In 2016 we replaced all of our shelving, and added a new freezer and cooler. The cooler has a nice selection of humanely raised meats at reasonable prices. Our freezer is full of organic and alternative milk ice creams and desserts. Our shelving has added many new items and made it easier to shop and to stock! These shelves even have End Caps that allow us to highlight our bi-weekly sales!

In 2017 we will continue to work on our expansion plans! We will be looking for loans from members to help us move forward on creating an eating space and enlarged

kitchen to be able to increase the delicious options coming from our wood fired brick oven and our deli department!

Your food co-op still has relevance, as we continue to be the conscience of what organic foods are and can be; as well as keeping vigilant to who is controlling what is in our food system.

Without you, YFC is just a building in Depot Town! With you YFC is a thriving, locally grown and community owned store intentionally filled with the best stuff around!

We hope you will join us in celebrating the past year of our food co-op at our Annual General Membership Meeting! - *Corinne Sikorski*

Local  
Farm  
Ingredients



**Harvest  
Kitchen  
Partnership**

Ready to  
go  
meals!

Farm to  
Fork!

Miss Harvest Kitchen's delicious prepared meals? For the convenience of the Ypsilanti community, we're offering a special collaboration. You can place orders online and pick up at the co-op for free!

Support  
Local!

**[harvest-kitchen.com](http://harvest-kitchen.com)**

## Business Name

312 N River, Ypsilanti MI 48198  
734-483-1520

## General Manager:

Corinne Sikorski  
[Corinne@ypsifoodcoop.org](mailto:Corinne@ypsifoodcoop.org)

## Editor:

Leaha Dotson  
[leaha@ypsifoodcoop.org](mailto:leaha@ypsifoodcoop.org)

## Special Thanks to:

Our Board and all the staff,  
volunteers and members

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# Look for YFC at the Farmers Markets

## \*Growing Hope Depot Town Market

Saturday 9am -1pm

## \*Cobblestone Market

Tuesdays 4pm-7pm



Wednesday, May 3 and  
Friday, May 26 11:30 am to 6 pm  
**Aura Cacia make your own body care  
products with essential oils.**  
Learn more about using essential oils  
and their benefits!

Thursday May 4, 6:00-8:00pm  
**YFC Annual General Membership  
Meeting at the Ypsi Freighthouse**  
All member-owners & shoppers wel-  
come! Please bring a dish to pass for  
the potluck!

Saturday May 6, 9:00-1:00pm  
**Growing Hope Depot Town Farmers  
Market Opens:** 100 Rice Street in Depot  
Town Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Tuesday May 16, 6:30pm

### YFC Board Meeting

Board meetings are open to the  
membership to observe and partici-  
pate in except when an executive ses-  
sion is called!

Tuesday May 23, 4-7pm

### Cobblestone Market Opens

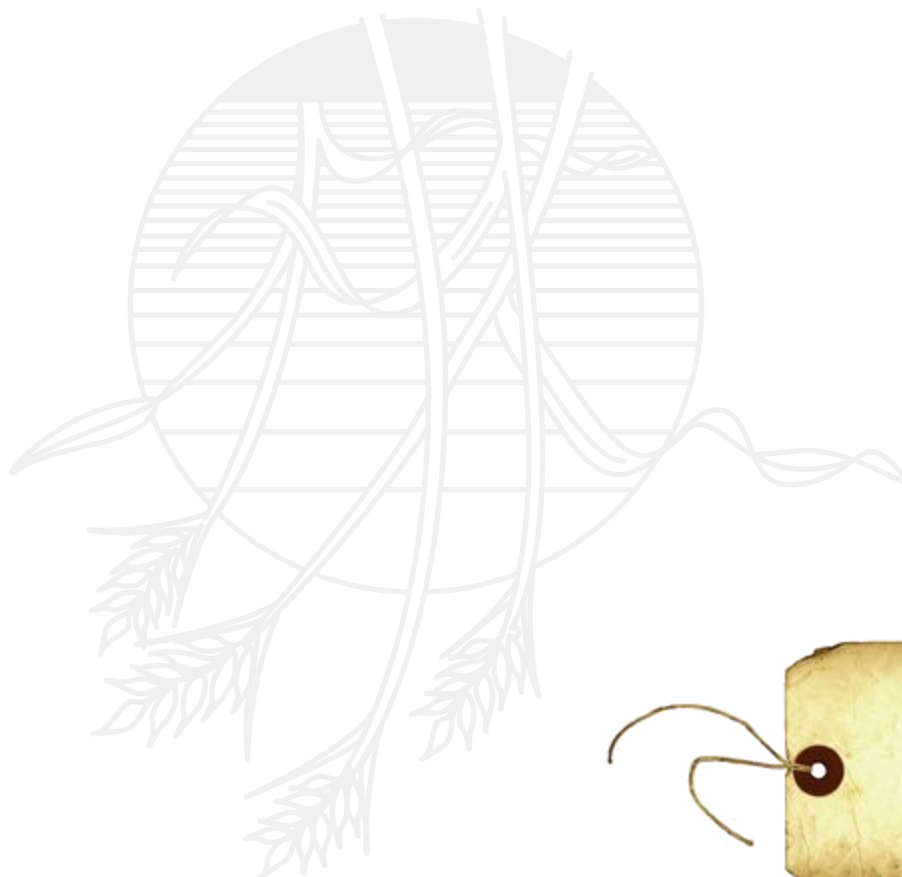
Located at: 2781 Packard Road Ann  
Arbor, MI. 48108

Wednesday May 24, 6:00-7:00pm

### New Member Orientation

Get to know your YFC Grocery  
Store! Samples and a 10% grocery  
discount included!

May Events



FROM:  
The Ypsi Food Co-op  
312 North River Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
[www.ypsifoodcoop.org](http://www.ypsifoodcoop.org)